

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SINGAP 03157 160847Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /087 W
-----053112 160850Z /10/15

R 140820Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 708
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
CINCPAC
AMEMBASSY MANILA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 3157

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT CORRECTED)

CINCPAC FOR POCAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OTRA, PEPR, SN, VN, PDIP
SUBJECT: SRV DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER VISIT TO SINGAPORE

REF: SINGAPORE 3109

1. SRV DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER PHAN HIEN LEFT SINGAPORE
JULY 12 FOR AUSTRALIA AFTER TWO-DAY UNOFFICIAL VISIT.
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2. THE MOST SIGNIFICANT DECISION TO COME OUT OF THE
VISIT IS AN AGREEMENT TO GRANT FULL DIPLOMATIC STATUS
TO THE RESPECTIVE TRADE OFFICES. PRESS SPECULATES
THAT THIS IS A FIRST STEP TOWARD ESTABLISHING FULL
DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. A VIETNAMESE TRADE OFFICE
ALREADY EXISTS IN SINGAPORE; THERE IS STILL NO

INDICATION WHEN THE PLANNED SINGAPORE OFFICE IN HANOI WILL OPEN.

3. CONTRARY TO ADVANCE PRESS REPORT OF SCHEDULE, PHAN HIEN DID NOT CALL ON PRIME MINISTER LEE KUAN YEW. JOURNALIST TOLD ECP COUNSELOR PRIVATELY THAT LEE HAD REFUSED TO MEET HIM. REST OF SCHEDULE REMAINED AS REPORTED REFTEL.

4. PRESS REPORTS OF VISIT FOCUS ON DISCUSSIONS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER RAJARATNAM. IN ADDITION TO AGREEMENT ON DIPLOMATIC STATUS FOR TRADE OFFICES, HIEN REPORTEDLY TOLD NEWSMEN HE HAD INFORMED RAJA "OF VIETNAM'S VIEWS ON INTERNATIONAL AND BILATERAL ISSUES, INCLUDING ITS PROPOSAL FOR THE SETTING UP OF A NEW ZONE OF PEACE, INDEPENDENCE AND NEUTRALITY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA." NEWS REPORTS SAY UNDERSTANDING "ON COMMON ASPIRATIONS AND OBJECTIVES" PURSUED BY VIETNAM AND ASEAN WAS REACHED ON BASIS OF "RESPECT FOR A COUNTRY'S SOVEREIGNTY, NON-INTERFERENCE IN EACH OTHER'S AFFAIRS AND MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL RELATIONSHIPS TO PRESERVE PEACE, STABILITY AND PROSPERITY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA." ACCORDING PRESS REPORT, HIEN DENIED THAT VIETNAM'S ORIGINAL ZONE PROPOSAL MENTIONED "GENUINE INDEPENDENCE"--A PHRASE WHICH FOREIGN MINISTER RAJARATNAM HAD STRONGLY CRITICIZED
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AT ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING AT PATTAYA. HIEN QUOTED AS STATING "WE SAID GENUINE NEUTRALITY." WHEN ASKED WHAT THIS PHRASE MEANT, HIEN IS REPORTED AS SAYING THAT "THE MATTER WOULD BE DISCUSSED AFTER AGREEMENTS HAVE BEEN REACHED ON COMMON ASPIRATIONS AND OBJECTIVES."

5. DEPARTMENT OF TRADE OFFICIAL CONFIRMED TO EMBOFF ACCURACY OF PRESS REPORT THAT INTRACO/TRADE DISCUSSIONS CONCERNED GENERAL IMPROVEMENT OF TRADE AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS, AND INTRACO'S DESIRE TO INCREASE TRADE ACTIVITIES WITH VIETNAM.

6. IN BRIEF DISCUSSION WITH NEWSMEN PRIOR TO DEPARTURE, HIEN SAID HE HAS NOT READ REPORTED CHINESE ACCUSATION THAT SRV PROPOSAL FOR ZONE OF PEACE, INDEPENDENCE AND NEUTRALITY IS A VIETNAMESE ATTEMPT TO BECOME "OVERLORD" OF SOUTHEAST ASIA. IF SUCH ACCUSATION HAS BEEN MADE, HIEN ADDED, "IT IS GROUNDLESS...WE INTEND TO HAVE GOOD RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES."

7. IN REPORTS TO DATE, THERE HAS BEEN NO MENTION OF
US-SRV RELATIONS OR REFUGEE PROBLEM BEING AMONG
TOPICS DISCUSSED. EXCERPTS FROM RAJARATNAM AFP
INTERVIEW ON IMPACT ON ASEAN OF SRV-PRC-KAMPUCHEA-
USSR DISPUTES, AND TEXT OF STRAITS TIMES EDITORIAL
ON PHAN HIEN VISIT BEING CABLED SEPARATELY.
INGRAHAM

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHMENT, MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SINGAP03157
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780300-0580
Format: TEL
From: SINGAPORE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780758/aaaabxeb.tel
Line Count: 123
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 67e60773-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 SINGAPORE 3109
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2002297
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SRV DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER VISIT TO SINGAPORE
TAGS: OTRA, PEPR, PDIP, OVIP, SN, VN, (PHAN HIEN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/67e60773-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014